What is claimed is:

1. A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising the step of

a) administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a LT-ß-R blocking agent.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of: soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor, an antibody directed against LT-ß receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises a soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

7. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-ß receptor.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat LT-ß receptor-positive cells for about 1 to about 14 days.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-ß-R mAb BDA8.

10. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat surface LT ligand-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the antibody is directed against a subunit of the LT ligand.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-ß mAb B9.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against a murine surface LT ligand.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the humoral immune response is inhibited.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a LT-ß-R blocking agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. The composition according to claim 38, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor, an antibody directed against LT-ß receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

19. A method for inhibiting LT-ß-R signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of a LT-ß-R blocking agent.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor, an antibody directed against LT-ß receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

21. The method according to claim 19, wherein the subject comprises one or more cells from a mammal.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human.

23. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises a soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-ß receptor further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

25. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-ß receptor.

26. The method according to claim 22, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-ß-R mAb BDA8.

27. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT-ß-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

28. A method for altering the association of immune complexes and B cell follicles in a patient comprising administering an amount of an LT-β-R blocking agent to said patient.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said patient is infected with human immunodeficiency virus.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein said blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of soluble LT-β-R, an antibody directed against LT-β-R, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein said soluble LT-β-R has a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein said soluble receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

33. The method of claim 28 wherein the LT-β-R comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-β-R.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein said antibody is anit-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8.

35. The method of claim 28 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

36. A method of treating, preventing, or eliminating human immunodeficiency virus in a mammal comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a LT-β-R blocking agent, and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the LT-β-R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of soluble lymphotoxin β-R, and antibody directed agains LT-β-R, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the blocking agnet comprises a soluble lymphotoxin -β-R comprising a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the soluble receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

40. The method of claim 36 wherein the LT-β-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-β-R.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the blocking agent comprises anit-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8.

42. The method of claim 36 wherein the blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

43. The method of claim 36 further comprising the co-administration of an additional anti-viral agent.

44. The method of claim 28 wherein the B cells are follicular dendritic cells.

45. A pharmaceutical composition for treating graft rejection comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a blocking agent of LT-β-R and a therapeutically effective amount of a blocking agent of CD40L.

46. The composition of claim 45 wherein the LT-β-R blocking agent is LT-β-R/IgG and the blocking agent of CD40L is an anti CD40L compound.

47. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of AIDS or HIV, comprising AZT, a protease inhibitor, and a blocking agent of LT-β-R.

48. The composition of claim 47 wherein the blocking agent is LT-β-R/IgG fusion.

49. The composition of claim 46 wherein the anti-CD40L compound is a monoclonal antibody.

50. The composition of claim 49 wherein the antibodiy is 5c8.

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